



Written Testimony before the Select Committee on Children

February 21, 2012

The department offers the following written testimony on SB 887, An Act Concerning the Care4Kids Program.

S.B. No. 887 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING THE CARE4KIDS PROGRAM.

This proposal would require the department to continue C4K payments during unpaid maternity leave for up to 12 weeks provided that:

- The parent intends to return to work at the end of the maternity leave;
- The child(ren) continue to receive care in a licensed or school-based child care setting, and
- Payment is needed to prevent the loss of a slot in a licensed or school-based child care setting.

Last session the department worked with the proponents, in lieu of legislation, to offer this benefit to C4K recipients for up to 6 weeks. It was agreed that the department would closely monitor program expenditures and discontinue if it was determined that it was exceeding anticipated demand. To date, the department has seen minimal fiscal impact. We believe that there will not be a significant impact to the program by increasing the number of weeks to twelve; therefore we are not opposed to this proposal.